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WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1900-TWENTY PAGES.

ANNUAL STATEMENT

Commissioners' Report Submitted to the President Today.

EXHIBIT FOR FISCAL YEAR

Police and Fire Departments and

THE NEEDS OF DISTRICT

Public Schools.

The Commissioners of the District today submitted to the President for the informa-

tion of Congress, as required by law, their annual report for the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1900. It is as follows: Appropriations and Revenues.

The appropriations for the year, which were payable out of the general revenues and embraced all but the appropriations for the water department, were \$7,132,841.58. This included \$258,295.70 of disbursements on account of damages incident to the extension of streets, and for other purposes, wholly out of the revenues derived from

taxation of private property and privileges.

The receipts from taxes and other resources applicable to the payment of said appropriations (including the amount contributable by the United States as its share of the District expenses, and a surplus of \$603,255.28 of District revenues of former years) were \$7,520,418.76.

The expenditures of the water department were \$407,174.42, and were wholly payable out of the revenues received from water rents and assessments. The revenues of said department, including a balance of former years amounting to \$351,712.08, were \$715,661.42. The details of the revenues and expendi-

tures for the year are stated in the accom-panying reports of the collector of taxes and the auditor, respectively. Funded Debt.

The funded debt of the District of Columbia on June 30, 1900, was \$15,094,570.18. No portion of it was incurred under the present form of the District government. The treasurer of the United States, who is charged with its management, reports it in detail, as follows:

Description of bonds. Date of maturity, Rate interest. When due. Total.	Of the District of Columbia— Water stock Water stock Fifty-year funding. Of the late Corporation of Wash'n— Three-year (Emery). Stocks and bonds outstanding on whe payment of the principal and interpretation of Washington, 10-year Corporation of Washington, 70-year Corporation of Washington The general District of Columbia 20-year funding
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In addition to this indebtedness the District had a small floating debt for current and emergent expenses not authorized by ntecedent appropriations; but this floating bt was not more than the revenues were inflicient to meet, as well as to provide for the current annual expenses.

Trust Obligations. The District o. Columbia is required to receive in payment of special assessments or of arrears of general taxes \$10,447.20 of drawback certificates which were issued under acts of Congress approved June 19, 1878, vol me 20, page 166; June 27, 1879, volume 27, page 166; June 27, 1879, volume 21, page 36; July 5, 1884, volume 23, page 132, and June 2, 1890, volume 26, page 124, as rebates for overcharges or interest on account of special assessments levied by form r municipal governments; and is also under obligations to pay out of the general und, under section two of the act of March 1. 1809, entitled "An act to provide for the disposition of assessment certificates of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, about \$600 whenever a certain outstanding invalid special assessment lien for \$207.74, bearing interest at 10 per cent per annum t July 2, 1890, is presented for re To the extent of those two amounts the District is practically indebt ed to the owners of the certificates and the holder of the lien. The issue of draw hibited by the District of Columbia appro-There was outstanding July 1, 1899, 11 the hands of private holders, \$3,756.38 of ens against private property for special improvements and secured by special assessments of like amount, and \$1,343.48 of scrip issued against private property for the cost of abutting public improvements, by the late corporation of the city of Washington, and also secured by an equal amount of special assessments. In case any of said assessments should for any rea-son become uncollectible, the liens or scrip would be redeemable out of the general fund under said act of March 1, 1899, and to that extent are an obligation of the

Any obligation that the District is under on account of any of said certificates is much more than offset by the special asessments due the District, amounting to \$17,198.21, and accrued interest thereon at the rate of 10 per cent per annum for cash collections of such assessments .States amounting to \$1,000.

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Bonds. The District of Columbia, as the suc cessor of the municipal corporations of Washington and Georgetown, also possesses a nominal asset of \$75,000 in bonds of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company. These bonds are 6 per cent coupon bonds, Ko (to) of which were issued to the city of Washington and \$25,000 to Georgetown, in exchange for a like amount of stock of said municipalities. They were prepared under an act of the state of Maryland approved in 1844, which authorized the cana company to utter \$1,700,000 of such securities to complete the canal, and making them a lien on the revenues of the com-

sirking fund, who refers at length to their status on pages 15 and 16 of his sixth annual report, pages 15 and 16 of his seventh annual report and pages 14 and 15 of his eighth annual report.

Estimates for 1901. Estimates for the support of the govern ment of the District for the fiscal year to end June 30, 1901, were prepared and submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury in compliance with law. They amounted to \$7,657,773.31, including \$135,341 to be paid out of the water fund. The details of these estimates are contained in the book of estimates for that year, which was published

by the Treasury Department. General Assessment.

The assessor reports the assessment taxable real and personal property in the District of Columbia on June 30, 1900, and the estimated tax derivable therefrom, as postant streets to be swept three times per follows:

Washington county:
Taxable on land at
\$1.50 \$11,643,067.00
Taxable on improvements at \$1.50 8,707,160.00

on gross receipts.... 1,371,348.00

Amount of tax: Washington city, at

\$1.50. City, at Washington county, at \$1.50. 305,252.51 ington county, 54,213.23 Total real estate ceipts street railway, at 4 per cent...... Total tax on personal property....

Total tax on real and personal property..... \$2,872,923.26 Rate of General Tax. The rate of general tax for the year was

fixed at \$1.50 on each \$100 of all taxable personal property and of all real property, except that used solely for agricultural purposes, the rate of which was \$1 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Population.

The population of the District of Columbia, according to the census of 1900, is

A Municipal Building. Among the many pressing needs of the District government there is not one which constitutes more of an emergency than the want of a fireproof municipal building. For nearly thirty years the local government has been compelled to rely upon such rent-

When it is considered that all plats and destruction would involve an injury to United States and District interests which would be irreparable and wholly beyond computation in money values, the investment of an amount necessary to construct an appropriate fireproof District bui .ng, which would avoid such a catastrophe, would seem to be required by common sense and by the ordinary precautions which a business man would take for the protec tion of his own interests.

The Assessor. In the office of the assessor the card index system has been instituted with regard to arrears of taxes, the numerical index, and inauguration of this system will greatly expedite the transaction of the public busi-ness, and will conduce to the convenience of all who have business with that office. Recently the office of the clerk in charge of special assessments, and that of the clerk having charge of assessments for water mains, have been consolidated with the assessor's office. It is believed that thereby the convenience of taxpayers will be subserved and a better system of facilitating the issuance of tax bills and certificates of

The Collector of Taxes.

The Commissioners invite special attention to the estimate for an increase of the force in the collector's office, the business of which has grown far beyond the ability of the present employes to properly perform It. The numerous subdivisions of land which have been made in recent years have by increasing the number of separate par of land correspondingly added to the number of tax accounts with which ollector's office has to deal. While this increase in the number of accounts is burden-seme in every branch of the office, it makes particularly onerous the work of preparing the statements and certificates in connection with the sales for delinquent taxes which have to be completed within a very limited period. Over five thousand of such certilicates have been prepared and issued during each of the last two years, and the number will probably be as large or larger in the future. This work has made it essary to provide assistance for the colector during its progress by detailing clerks from other offices, to the prejudice of the work in the offices to which they belong. familiar with the tax records, frequent and serious errors occur, which might be avoided by clerks accustomed to the records by reason of their regular employment. From time to time new duties with respect to various forms of special assessments and permits have been imposed, and contribute to augment an amount of work already largely disproportionate to the force allotted to its performance, and render the recommended increases necessary for the ade quate accommodation of the public, and the keeping of a proper system of accounts.

Street Cleaning. The hand system of cleaning the streets

of Washington, which was adopted July 1, 1897, has been continued with unqualified success; and the area cleaned by hand is being increased as rapidly as the appropriations therefor will allow. The daily area cleaned during the first year was 394,128 square yards, at a contract price of 32 cents per 1,000 square yards. The second year the daily hand cleaning schedule was increased to 702,640 square yards, which 308,512 were cleaned directly by the District, the average cost of which was 18 cents per 1,000 square yards, as compared with 32 cents per 1,000 square yards paid the contractor for the same work.

The excellent showing made by the superintendent of street cleaning in demonstrat-ing that the work for which a contractor was paid 32 cents per 1,000 square yards could be done under his supervision without contract for 18 cents per 1,000, caused the insertion of a provision in the appropriation act for the fiscal year ended In 1900, which limited the rate to be paid under contract to 22 cents per 1,000 square yards, thereby enabling the Commissioners to secure a contract at the rate of 214 cents per 1,000 square yards. By this reduction in the rate they were enabled to increase the daily schedule to 1,230,778 square yards. In the current appropriation act Congress further reduced the limit to paid under contract to 20 cents per 1,000 square yards, and in the event of failure to secure a contract at 20 cents or less,

penses of equipping the department with twenty horses, eight large modern wagons, bag carriers, bags, brooms, sprinklers, shovels and all other implements necessary to perfect organization. This reduction in the cost has enabled them to further eniarge the daily schedule to 1,565,809 square yards, upon which is employed 201 deserving men at a fair rate of compensation promptly paid.

The machine sweeping, which comprises a daily schedule of 730,000 square yards of street surface, the most of which is swept between the nours of 8 p.m. and 5 a.m., is penses of equipping the department with

between the nours of 8 p.m. and 5 a.m., is between the nours of 8 p.m. and 5 a.m., is being done under contract, at the low rate of 18 cents per 1,000 square yards. The work under the present contractor is being performed in a very efficient and satisfactory manner; but as under the allotment of \$35,000 it is impossible to sweep any of the streets oftener than twice a week, it is hoped that the appropriation may be so increased as to allow some of the more important streets to be swent three times per

Disposal of City Refuse. The collection and disposal of city refuse has been one of the long-standing problems with which the Commissioners have

had to contend. In the appropriation act for the current year an appropriation of \$115,000 was made for the collection and disposal of all kinds of city refuse; and the Commissioners were authorized to enter into a contract or contracts for a period of five years for the performance of such work. The method of disposal of garbage heretofore has to a certain extent resulted in nuisance. The collection thereof, under the careful supervision of the health officer, has for several years past been performed in a most efficlent and thorough manner; but the method of conveying the material down the river upon scows and depositing it along the shores has been a source of endless com-

The Commissioners, after careful consideration, decided that the entire subject matter of the disposal of city waste should be placed under the supervision of the su-perintendent of street cleaning, his department appearing to them to be the one to which the work most properly belonged. The health office, which had supervised the collection of garbage and night soil so efficiently for many years, was thereby re-lieved of this burdensome duty and left to devote its entire time to the special duties for which it was established.

Regulations and specifications were therefore prepared, under the supervision of the superintendent of street cleaning, and proposals were solicited for the various classes of work. For the collection and disposal of garbage and dead animals the Washington Fartilizer Co. Were the successful bid ton Fertilizer Co. were the successful bidders, at the contract price of \$51,600 per annum. The garbage and dead animals will, under the contract with this company, be disposed of by what is known as a reduction process in regard to which its process, in regard to which it is claimed that in no instance has it failed to give entire satisfaction. The material will be conveyed twenty miles beyond the city limts, and in such air-tight receptacles as to cause the least possible nuisance; and the people of Washington are to be con-gratulated upon the fact that the shores of the Potomac river will be freed from the deposits of garbage and refuse whose of-fensive odors have so long been a source of annoyance to travelers upon that river. The contract with the Washington Fertil-izer Company will go into effect December

The accepted proposal for the collection of ashes was that made by R. V. Rusk, for ed buildings as could from time to time be found most available.

When it is considered that all plats and propriation was not sufficient to allow the when it is considered that all plats and records of underground construction, as well as all records relating to assessments and taxes, are stored in a building which more frequent collections. The contractor sired, yet it is very commendable considerhe time required to inaugurate a new sys-

> The proposals of R. V. Rusk for the collection and disposal of night soil, at \$17,000, and waste paper and miscellaneous refuse, at \$8,000, were accepted; and the services rendered have been found to be a marked improvement over the old methods With a proper spirit of co-operation beween the citizens and the collectors in the various branches of the service Washing-

ton will soon realize an ideal condition of The Metropolitan Police Force. During the past fiscal year the police force of the District has maintained the

high record of efficiency which has characterized it for a long period of time. On the 30th of June, 1900, the force con sisted of 571 members. By reason of sickness, details and assignments to post duty only 315 privates could be assigned to patrol duty. Of these only seventy-eight men could be assigned to duty during the daytime and 157 during the night. Yet this in-sufficient force upon actual patrol duty is expected to protect the capital city of the United States, with its population of 278,718, and an area of seventy-one square miles the major and superintendent, showing police areas and numbers of policemen, it appears that St. Louis, with a precinct area of 40,000 acres, has a force of 976 men, while the District of Columbia, with an area of 44,320 acres, has a force numbering only 71. Of this force fifty-seven are assigned to important post duties, and eighty-four to special duty at localities where the services of policemen cannot be dispensed with. The major and superintendent has asked for an increase in his force of 160 men. The Com-missioners have approved this estimate, and they will earnestly urge that an appropriaembodying this increase be enacted

into law interests here to be protected merely those of an ordinary municipality. When it is considered that the police force of Washington have in their keeping the security of the Executive Mansion, the homes of the representatives of foreign powers, ors and representatives, and of all the residential officials of the federal government, it will be seen that the responsibilities resting upon them are of the most serious and delicate nature, and that no policy of unwise economy should curtail this important branch of the public service to a number inconsistent with the dignity of Washington among the great capitals of the world. The major and superintendent notes many recommendations in his report looking to the improvement of existing conditions, to which the attention of Congress is earnestly

There is embodied in his last annual re port the codification of the statutes relating o the police force and analogous subjects This proposed legislation has, as to the gen eral subject matter, received the approval of the courts, the board of trade and the Bar Association, and should, in the opinion of the Commissioners, be enacted into law. The Commissioners invite the favorable consideration of the Congress to the recom-mendation of the major and superintendent that appropriate legislation be enacted in order that the superior facilities afforded by he institution known as the Junior Repubic, located in the state of Maryland, for the reformation of youthful offenders, may be itilized for the wayward youth of the Dis-

There should also be made adequate pro vision for the payment of pensions to the disabled members of the metropolitan police force, including its officers highest in rank. While the half-and-half provision for the payment of all legitimate expenses of the District should apply also to the police pension fund, yet, in case the committees of the two houses should refuse to authorize such equal payment on the part of the United States, there will be an absolute necessity f providing by law in some manner for the eficiency which annually exists in the fund provided for this most just recognition of faithful men who have become disabled in

Bathing Beach

The Commissioners are gratified to note the continued popularity of the bathing beach, and commend it to general favor. The reports of the superintendent and of

beyond the stage of experiment, and is re- is, however, slightly in excess of the avergarded by thousands as an indispensable adjunct to the facilities afforded to the pub-lic for diversion, comfort and useful in-

ation of Congress.

There is a pressing demand for certain There is a pressing demand for certain municipal improvements, which have from time to time received consideration from the committees of Congress, and which, in the opinion of the Commissioners, cannot longer be ignored. It would be an insult to the public spirit of our national legislators to intimate that these necessary improvements would for a moment be postponed if the revenues of the District were now sufficient to meet the District's one-half of the expenditures required for their completion.

The reported mortality is the increase in the number of deaths from typhoid fever. The total number of such deaths, 221, is not large, yet it points to the existence of a considerable number of cases of this discussion which, being preventable, should not have existed. It is hoped and expected that the proposed filtration of the public water supply will materially diminish the prevalence of typhoid fever in this District, even if it does not prevent it altogether.

Scarlet fever has been less prevalent than during last year, but the number of cases

This demand includes a municipal build-ing; the completion of the sewerage dis-posal system; the construction of a water filtration plant and the installation of a complete system for the maintenance of an abundant water supply to all parts of the

The Commissioners do not believe that these important and urgent matters should be postponed until the revenues of the Dis-trict become sufficient in amount to provide for the payment of the one-half chargeable to the municipality. In view of their paramount importance to the very wellbeing of the people of the District, and, so far as the most of them are concerned, to the health of the public officials residing the public works mentioned should here, the public works mentioned should be begun at once and carried to their

rollest possible completion.

To accomplish this purpose one of two plans should be authorized by the Congress: 1st, an advance by the United States of the amount necessary to meet the Dis-trict's one-half of the necessary expendi-tures, to be repaid in annual installments; or, second, the issuance of bonds to an amount necessary to meet the District's one-half of the necessary expenditures, to bear interest at the rate of 2 per centum per annum, with the payment of the prin-cipal and interest guaranteed by the United

States.

The benefits to be derived from these proposed public works would inure to the benefit of the people of the United States and the District of Columbia during the next century. The Commissioners believe that it would be a wise policy to make these improvements for the Washington of the future and to place future revenues for future and to pledge future revenues for the payment of the same.

Improvement of the Anacostia River. In response to a joint resolution approved April 11, 1898, which required the Secretary of War to prepare and submit to the Congress forthwith a project for the improvement of the Anacostia river and the reclamation of its flats from the line of the District of Columbia to the mouth of said river and an estimate of the cost of the same, and to report on the area and owner-ship of the land to be reclaimed, and if any portion of the said land be vested in private persons to estimate the cost of acquiring the same, the acting secretary of war sub-mitted a report on the 14th of December, 1808, embodying a communication from Brigadier General John M. Wilson, chief of engineers, U. S. A., and a report with maps by Lieutenant Colonel Charles J. Allen, corps of engineers, of a survey of Anacostia river, estimating the cost of the reclamation of the Potomac flats from the mouth of the Anacostia to the Navy Yard bridge and from the Navy Yard bridge to Benning bridge, at \$2,194,729, with a statement that \$400,000 could be judiciously expended an-

nually under that plan.

While this matter is wholly under the control of the federal government, the Commissioners deem it only fair to the people of the District to state that they regard this proposed improvement as one of the highest importance to the best interests of the national capital.

A recent statement has been prepared for the use of the Commissioners showing the number of cases of malarial disease re-ported by 433 physicians during the months of July, August and September, 1900. For the purpose of the computation, an estimate made by the health officer in December 1898, showing a population of 287,462, was used. From the said report it appears that. in the northeast section of the city, with a population of 11 per cent of the said total, there were found 21 per cent of the total number of malarial cases; in the southeast ulation, 17 per cent of the total number of the Anacostia river, with 4 per cent of the cases amounted to 14 per cent of the total. The annual report of Surgeon General Van Reypen states that in 1895, 98 per cent of the persons employed at the navy yard became ill with malaria at various

times during that year.

A report to the Commissioners from the superintendent of the Government Hospital or the Insane, during the months of July, August and September, 1900, shows as fol-lows: Intermittent, 317; remittent, 67; irregular, 119; making a total of 503 malarial cases in that institution during three morths.

The Commissioners believe that stronger argument could be presented, showing the urgent necessity for an immediate beginning of this important work. Board of Charities.

Upon the recommendation of the superin tendent of charities, Herbert W. Lewis, who crowned his faithful service to the District with this act, and in response to the request of many of the citizens who are interested in philanthropic work, Congress abolished, at its last session, the office of the superintendent of charities, and created in its stead a board of charities to be appointed by the President of the United States and to have supervision, under the authority of the Commissioners, of all penal, reformatory and charitable institu-tions sustained in whole or in part by pub-lic funds within the District of Columbia. The board of charities was provided by Congress "to promote the effective and the institutions under its supervision and to co-ordinate their efforts so as to bring them into genuine co-operation. It is be lieved that such a board, made up of emi-nent citizens, serving without compensation, will be able to do this work better than a superintendent of charities, required by law to be a non-resident and receiving a salary for his services. The people of the District were gratified by the appointment of S. W. Woodward, John Joy Edson, Si-mon Wolf, George W. Cook and Charles P. Neill as members of this board of charities. They promptly took up the work assigned to them by the act of Congress, and will port respecting it at the coming session of Congress, transmitting, in the meantime, an estimate for substantially the same appropriation as was made last year for the institutions under the supervision of the board. It is believed that this board will be able to carry out the purpose of the act, and thus bring about a better system of public charities. The reports of the charitable and reformatory institutions for the past fiscal year indicate that they have also their work as well as a former years. done their work as well as in former years. The completion of the new building at the Reform 5 hol for Girls will give increased accommod hons that will greatly facilitate its work. The plans for a chapel and assembly hall at the Reform School for Boys have been approved and preparations made have been approved and preparations made for beginning building.

Health Department.

The health department, whose operations are of such vital importance to the welfare of the District, has been rendering as efficient service as possible with its inadequate force. The health officer has done all that could possibly be expected to improve the health conditions of the District, administering his office with intelligence and energy. The Commissioners cordially approve the recommendations he makes in his

annual report. The population of the District, as shown by the United States census, taken in June, 1900, was 278.718, considerably less than had them a lien on the revenues of the com-pasy. The bonds matured May 31, 1885. Interest is due on them since July 1, 1864. Those securities are in the custody of the treasurer of the United States as ex-officio Commissioner of the District of Columbia.

age for the past five years. Of the decedents, 3,325 were white and 2,628 colored. No definite statement can be made, however, as to the relative death rate in the two races in view of the fact that the fed-The experience on which those recom-mendations are based entitle the views eral census has not yet reached a point therein expressed to the favorable consider-where it will permit such calculations to be made. The most regrettable feature of the reported mortality is the increase in the

during last year, but the number of cases of diphtheria has increased. The health department was enabled, through the agency of the milk law, to suppress an outbreak of the former disease, involving thirty-three cases, due to milk infection. The wards for the reception of minor contagious diseases, which have been constructed in con-nection with Providence and Garfield Memorial Hospitals, have been constantly occupied by patients suffering from such diseases, for whom, prior to the existence of such wards, no hospital accommodations whatsoever were available. Many of these patients were treated at public expense, but some came from well-to-de families. but some came from well-to-do families, and sought hospital treatment solely on ac-count of the advantages offered by it. Smallpox ha. been present during the greater part of the year. The mild character of the disease, and the repeated impor-tation of it from other places, have ren-dered its suppression difficult, and a few cases remain under treatment at the close of the period covered by this report.

The abolition of the box privy nuisance proceeds more slowly each year as the total number of such structures diminishes Only 381 have been done away with during the year. Difficulty has been experienced in securing the abolition of box privies on property belonging to non-residents because of the absence of an appropriation enabling the Commissioners to have such connections made and to assess the cost against the property benefited. This difficulty has however, been removed to a certain extent by a small appropriation for use during the present fiscal year. A further obstacle is being placed in the way of the abatement of this nuisance by secret conveyances of property on which box privies exist. In such cases no deeds are placed on record, so that the health department is unable to discover either the name or the address of the supposed real owner, the owner of record relieving himself from liability by filing with the district attorney an affidavit alleging a sale of the property, or by going on the witness stand at the trial and alleging such a sale. The manifest purpose of such transactions is the evasion of responsibility for the sanitary condition of premises in this District. It suggests the advisability of legislation requiring deeds

advisability of legislation requiring deeds to be recorded within some specified length of time after they take effect. Prosecutions instituted during the year for violation of the provision of an act to prevent the manufacture and sale of adul-terated foods and drugs resulted in an appeal in one case to the Court of Appeals. The court, however, in an opinion handed Gown on February 7, 1900, sustained the law. The authority of the health department with reference to such matters has, therefore, been strengthened.

Inspection of dairy farms and of dairy products under the laws enacted for that purpose has been carried on as thoroughly as the available inspection force would permit. The general quality of milk brought into the District has, from a chemical service to outlying farms from which milk condition of the premises on which milk of the cows producing it, are of vital im be satisfactorily determined by chemical methods. The milk law needs certain amendments which have been pointed out

in a special report made during the year. The inspection of live stock is on an unsatisfactory basis because of the of needed legislation and of a sufficient in spection force. The establishment of one or two public abattoirs would solve the problem in respect to this work. In the absence of such abattoirs, however, legislation is needed to authorize the licensing of slaughter houses and to regulate the hours of slaughter. Slaughtering at night and or Sunday, so as to avoid inspection, have been resorted to in some cases, and cannot

e prevented under existing law. In the preceding report of the Commis-sioners it was noted that a case involving the validity of the act for the prevention of moke was pending in the Court of Appeals The opinion in this case was handed on May 8, 1900, and fully sustained the law. Prosecutions that were instituted prior to this test case have been discontinued, as in view of the length of time since the alleged offenses occurred it was believed that no good results could be secured by contin-uing them. Since the decision of the Court of Appeals all reasonable effort has been induce parties responsible for smoky chimneys to adopt such measures as ere necessary to enable them to comply with the law. In some cases such efforts have been successful, but in others violaions of the statute continue. One prosecuon has already been instituted and is now pending, and others are about to be begun has been suggested that the smoke law requires certain amendments, but in view of the fact that its validity, and, to certain extent, its construction, have already been passed upon by the Court of Appeals, it seems undestrable to tamper

An effort has been made to enforce the without perceptible effect. The weed nuis ance is so extensive that it has been impossible to undertake more than to secure removal of weeds upon complaint and in cases in which they were causing nuisance in fact. No effort has been made to cause the removal of all such vegetation, as the inspection force at the disposal of the health department has been entirely inadequate for such a task, and as there has been no appropriation to enable the Commis oners to cause the removal of weeds from the property of non-resident owners under the assessment system. Such an appropriation having been made it will be possible during the present fiscal year to do something toward removerty belonging to non-residents, but unti ment is increased the law cannot be en-forced generally. It has been suggested that the removal of weeds could be more effectually secured by requiring all owners or occupants of property to cut them and carry them away on or before certain speciled dates without notice, and authorizing the Comissioners to have them cut in all cases where the law has not been thus complied with, without further notice, the cost of such work to be assessed against the property whether belonging to residents or non-residents. It is respectfully recommended that the legislation necessary to ecure this result be enacted. The increased work done by the pound service during the year has demonstrated more forcibly than has ever been demon-

more forcibly than has ever been demonstrated before the necessity for a new pound. The present structure used for this purpose was designed for temporary occupancy only; it is badly located and poorly constructed. It is urged that provision be made for the erection of a new pound, and in connection with it a suitable stable for the use of the health department to replace the unsatisfactory rented structure now

It is a remarkable fact that in this District there are no public bathing facilities available during cool and cold weath, and that the only such facilities available dur-ing the summer season at the bathing beach are at best a makeshift, so far as re-gards purposes of simple cleanliness. As a large number of citizens are so unfortua large number of citizens are so unfortu-nately situated as to have no bathing fa-cilities in their residences, they are in actual need of public baths. The example of other cities points to the importance of establishing public bath houses for the accommodation of these classes. It is re-spectfully recommended that action be

spectfully recommended taken toward that end. The most important statement in the an-

calls attention once more to the need for a suitable morgue, which, as he says, "is so self-evident as to require no demonstration." The Commissioners recommend an appropriation of \$15,000 for a building for that purpose. It is hoped that the District may no longer be obliged to use a portion of the stable in the rear of one of the police stations, which is the only place now available for a morgue

The total number of deaths investigated by the corporer during the fiscal year was

by the coroner during the fiscal year was 775, a decrease of six from the number investigated in the year before.

Electric Department. The greatly increased use of electricity in the District of Columbia has made it necessary to establish a new department of the District government, which ought to have full recognition commensurate with the importance of its work, which also includes the gas a 1 naphtha lighting sys-tem, telephone service and fire alarm tele-graph. A portion of the officers and employes of this department are on the per-manent rolls of the District government, but a considerable number are simply on the per diem rolls. The efficient head of the department, the electrical engineer, is

himself carried on the per diem rolls. As a matter of business organization, and for the good effect it would have upon the men engaged in the work, this department ought to be placed on the same basis as other departments of the District government. The volume and importance of the work done by the electrical engineer appear in his annual report in his annual report.

Gas Lighting.

The results obtained from the few Welsbach street lights now maintained are so successful as to warrant the recommendation that the system be extended, and for that purpose it is recommended that the amount be increased from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

Incandescent Electric Lighting. The extension of this satisfactory system of lighting is prohibited east of Rock creek by lack of authority in the Commissioners to grant permission for the stringing of the necessary wires and the erection of poles. It is recommended that the Commissioners be given such authority as will enable them to erect wires and poles east of Rock creek and outside of the fire limits.

Electric Arc Lighting. e extension of this system of lighting beyond the city limits can be made under the present wording of the appropriation act only where co: luits exist or where the building of conduits would be remunerative to the electric lighting company. There are a few main thoroughfares into the city where the gas lighting facilities are reolly inadequate and where are lights could be maintained to great advantage. To do this, however, it would be necessary to effect overhead wires, either upon existing poles or upon poles erected especially for the or upon poles erected especially for that purpose. It is recommended, therefore, that the wording of this appropriation be changed as follows:

"Provided, however, that the Commissioners of the District of Columbia are hereby authorized to permit the erection of poles and the stringing of wires thereon outside of the limits of the city of Washington, as in their judgment may be necessary for the maintenance of public electric arc lamps, such poles and wires to be used only for public electric arc lighting. public electric arc lighting." Another change which seems desirable is that, where there are railroad conduits now laid, having sufficient available duct room for lighting wires, the Commissioners standpoint, been good. There is, however, should be authorized to grant permission to from 7th street northwest to Florida ave nue northeast, on C and D streets northeast from 2d to 13th streets and on 5th street

from Massachusetts to New York avenues there are conduits originally laid by the City and Suburban Railway Company, in which there are available ducts controlled by the two lighting companies wording of the act approved June 27, 1898, amending the charter of the Eckington and oldiers' Home Railway Company the railway company is prohibited from using their conduit or cables or electrical conductors of any character whatever for the purpos lectric lighting and power, except for the operation of their road. It is suggested

"That so much of public act No. 156, ap proved June 27, 1898, amending the charter of the Eckington and Soldiers' Home Railway Company of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, which provides, 'That nothing herein contained shall be construed as authorizing or permitting said company to use their conduits or cables or electrical conductors of any character whatever for the purpose of electric light-ing or power, except such as may be necessary for the lighting and propelling of the cars and other machinery of such road and the power house of said company, or other property owned or acquired by said company adjacent to the lines of the road and necessary for the operation of said road, is hereby repealed, and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia are hereby authorized in their judgment to permit the use of the conduits and cables and electrical conductors of the City and Suburban Railway Company to be used for public lighting purposes, and are authorized to permit connect ions for such purposes to be made to the conduits of this company. least, of the above mentioned streets should

proposed legislation will permit this to be done without the building of additional street conduits.

Telephone Conduits.

Attention is invited to the fact that the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company is prevented from building conduits, either to bury its existing wires or to make extensions to its existing underground system, while the electric lighting companies enjoy unlimited privileges in this direction The telephone company is ready and willing to take down a great many of their overhead lines, which they cannot do, however, without the building of additional conduits. A carefully drawn-up bill was introduced in Congress at its last session, which would not only relieve this restricted condition of affairs, but enable the company to extend its house connections by means of over-head wires outside of the city limits, which they are now prohibited from doing by the existing law. This bill (H. R., No. 9053) has nany features which it would be desirable to have enacted.

of any description or character can be erected outside of the city limits, and within those limits only such wires as can be strung from alley pole to alley pole. This restriction has resulted in depriving numerous citizens of telephone service worked hardship to many. Some relief in this direction is urgently demanded.

The electric department has succeeded in

rebuilding the majority of the telephone lines maintained by the District, substitut ing metallic circuits for old grounded circuits. There remain but three engine houses, one police station and five schools

houses, one police station and five schools to be changed. In addition to this about one mile of pole line, carrying over thirty-seven miles of wire, has been removed and the equivalent wires placed in underground conduits of the telephone company. With liberal appropriations from Congress this work will be carried on until a large portion of the District wires are placed under ground. A bill was again introduced at the last session of Congress requiring each and

every railway company in the District to install and use metallic circuit trolley avatems, either overhead or underground, and to abandon the use of rail and ground returns. This bill is of considerable importance in affording protection to subservice pipes, cables, wires and other metallic constructions, and should be passed. The Washington Traction and Electric Company, anticipating such legislation, has rebuilt a large portion of the overhead trolley lines controlled by it with the double turns. This bill is of considerable impor-

trolley system, but is operating only one of such lines with that system.

If you want to buy, sell,

Electric Wiring. A bill requiring that all electrical contractors and wiremen should be licensed, creating a board of electrical control to supervise electrical installations and requiring that the District shall inspect the installation of all electric wires and plants in buildings has been introduced and its passage will be urged by the Commissioners. With this enacted the danger from cheap and unworkmanlike construction in electric wiring would be reduced to a min-imum and the danger from fires greatly re-

Fire Department. The fire department has maintained its

reputation for efficiency, although during the year it had no remarkable fires to fight. It responded, however, to 639 alarms during the fiscal year and did good service as usual. The need for an enlargement of the department and for the improvement of the existing buildings belonging to it is still great, notwithstanding the fact that through the action of Congress two addi-tional truck companies and one chemical engine company have been provided. The engine company have been provided. The increased facilities for rapid transit have increased facilities for rapid transit have spread the population of the District over all portions of it, so that there has been a general and rapid increase in the number of buildings in the suburban places which, therefore, appeal, with reason, for fire protection that cannot be given without weakening that to which the older portions of the District are entitled. At the same time the normal increase of population and the number of buildings in the city of Washington, including Georgetown, demand an increase of fire protection there. The an increase of fire protection there. The chief of the fire department gives good reasons in his annual report for an increase of three new engines companies and two new truck companies. The Commissioners would gladly ask for all of these, but, in view of the other pressing needs of the District, they have asked in their estimates for only one new engine company and one new truck company, and defer the others until next year. A stable where the sick and disabled horses of the fire department may be treated and extra horses kept is greatly needed, and is once more asked for.

More asked for.

As a mere matter of justice, a lifteen per cent increase of the salaries of the officers and men of the fire department, which has been asked in this year's estimates by the Commissioners, should be granted. For some reason the fire department has never received the same rates of compensation as other departments under the District government, although its members work as hard, and with as great and constant risk, as any other employes of the District, while they are separated from their families as no other employes are. It has become difficult to retain first-class men in the department because of the fact men in the department because of the fact that their compensation is so inadequate. The increase of the department and the expansion of the city demand that the number of assistant chiefs shall be increased from two to four. At present each of the assistant chiefs has to respond to all alarms in one-half of the District, night and day. This is more than any man can do easily and well, and there is no doubt that the service will be improved by dou-bling the number of these officers.

The fire alarm system of the District of Columbia continues to give great satisfac-

tion. The electrical engineer and his as-sistants in immediate charge of fire alarm headquarters have adopted every improve-ment that can be devised to increase its efficiency. The employes in charge of it show a singular fidelity and industry under very uncomfortable conditions at head-

Centennial Celebration.

Under the action of Congress and the steps taken by the committees authorized to make arrangements for the celebration of the centennial of the establishment of the seat of government in the District of Columbia, Wednesday, December 12, has been selected as the day for the ceremonies. A simple but dignified and worthy celebration is provided in the program prepared by the executive committee, representing Congress, the governors of the states and territories and the citizens of the District of Columbia, ident of the United States in their prepara

A reception by the President in honor of the governors of the states and territories at the Executive Mansion in the morning, during which brief addresses on the history of the White House, the history of the District of Columbia, and the development of the nation will be delivered, and addresses on the subject of the celebration, by eminent senators and representatives, at a join session of the Senate and House, in the afternoon, are the principal features of the program.

A military and naval parade is to escort

the President and his distinguished guests from the White House to the Capitol at noon. The people of the District of Co-lumbia have shown a deep interest in the preparations for the celebration of this memorable anniversary, and there is every reason to believe that it will prove to be a notable occasion.

Sealer of Weights and Measures. The sealer of weights and measures is able to report continued improvement in the work of his office, which has been carried forward with zeal and discretion. He reperts that there is very evident improve ment made in the scales and measures in use in the District. He recommends that there should be an annual inspection of all measures, instead of simply one inspection in each case. He also recommends an inspection and sealing of milk jars for the protection of the public, which would repuire an additional assistant sealer at a salary of \$900 per annum, which outgo would be more than counterbalanced by the in-come from fees. The sealer makes other in-telligent and interesting suggestions, which

are worthy of consideration. Harbormaster.

The harbor master has done the best he could to police the waters of the District of Columbia with his police boat, "Vigilant," and has accomplished wonders when it is considered that his boat is probably the slowest on the river, and that he nas only a day crew. It is high time that the Dis-trict should have a suitable boat for this necessary business and that the harbor master should have a night crew as well as a day crew. This is more necessary than ever, now that new duties have been placed upon the Commissioners respecting the that there should be no further delay in this matter, and the modest estimate sub-mitted by the harbor master will be earnestly commended to the attention of Con-

The excise board reports that 515 retail icenses were issued in the year ending Ocober 31, 1900, which is one less than during the same period of the preceding year; while the total number of wholesale icenses issued was 125, the same as in the former period.

The Commissioners desire to repeat their

ommendation of the excise bill now ng in Congress, providing needed amendnents for the excise law.

Board of Education. Congress having provided at its last ses-

sion as a result of an investigation made by the Senate committee on the District of Columbia for a reorganization of the public school system, creating a board of education of seven members, in place of the board of school trustees of the public assistant superintendents in place of the superintendent of white schools and the superintendent of colored schools, the Com-missioners, according to the direction of Congress, appointed the board of educa-